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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,851	12/09/2003	Arnold H. Bramnick	BOC9-2003-0038 (407)	5241
40/987 7590 11/10/2008 AKERMAN SENTERFITT P. O. BOX 3188 WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33402-3188				
EXAMINER ROBINSON BOYCE, AKIBA K				
ART UNIT 3628		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 11/10/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/730,851

**Applicant(s)**

BRAMNICK ET AL.

**Examiner**

AKIBA K. ROBINSON BOYCE

**Art Unit**

3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/309)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/9/08 has been entered.

### ***Status of Claims***

2. Due to communications filed 10/9/08, the following is a non-final office action. Claims 9-26 are cancelled. Claims 1-8 are pending in this application, and have been examined on the merits. Claims 1-8 are rejected as follows.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slivka et al (US 2003/0225600), and further in view of Goel (US 2008/0270222 A1),

As per claim 1, Sivka et al discloses:

Receiving a booking request from a passenger, ([0048], rebooking request);

Determining at least one rebooking flight candidate according to rebooking rules based on passenger data for said passenger and flight operations data; ([0034], lines 1-8, passenger information obtained, w/[0014], shows disrupted passengers are re-accommodated, and a disrupted passenger is unable to travel on a scheduled flight on a carrier, w/ shows a ranking of certain types of passengers, and this table is used by the rules engine when performing the re-accommodation process as shown in [0026]);

Sivka et al does not specifically disclose presenting the determined at least one rebooking flight candidate to said passenger with an incentive for encouraging the passenger to select a rebooking flight candidate preferred by the carrier, however, in [0028], discloses a monitor which is used to present a notification of re-accommodations.

However, Goel discloses several rebook options for the customer to select flight options, one of them being the NEAA option (Next Earliest Available Flight on Original Airline), which gives the passenger the option of being rebooked on the next earliest available flight from the passenger's original carrier operating out of the passenger's original departure airport in . Goel also discloses presenting options to the customer in [0038]. It therefore would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Sivka et al and Goel to disclose presenting the determined at least one rebooking flight candidate to said passenger with an incentive for encouraging the passenger to select a rebooking flight candidate preferred by the carrier.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to present the determined at least one rebooking flight candidate to said passenger with an incentive for encouraging the passenger to select a rebooking flight candidate preferred by the carrier with the motivation of giving the passenger the option of selecting an alternate flight.

Slivka et al does not specifically disclose prompting said passenger to select one of said presented at least one rebooking flight candidate, but does disclose the determination of alternative itineraries based on passenger data in [0044], and subsequently rebooking a passenger as shown in [0046], and discloses an output file, which is accessed by a re-accommodation driver that attempts to rebook as shown in [0045]. Slivka et al also discloses that a personal computer, and a monitor is included in the re-accommodation computer in [0019] and Fig. 1, thereby implying travel accommodations being selected from the personal computer by a passenger.

However, Goel discloses that after options are presented to the customer, customer choices are received, and a sale is completed in [0038]. It therefore would have been obvious to combine Slivka et al with Goel to disclose prompting said passenger to select one of said presented at least one rebooking flight candidate. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to disclose prompting said passenger to select one of said presented at least one rebooking flight candidate with the motivation of giving the passenger an indication of alternate options.

Slivka et al does not specifically disclose rebooking said passenger on the selected rebooking flight candidate, however does disclose the determination of alternative itineraries based on passenger data in [0044], and subsequently rebooking a passenger as shown in [0046].

However, Goel discloses that if the customer selects the NEAA option, he is rebooked on the next earliest available flight from the passenger's original carrier operating out of the passenger's original departure airport as shown in [0177], lines 7-11. It therefore would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Slivka et al and Goel to disclose rebooking said passenger on the selected rebooking flight candidate. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to rebook said passenger on the selected rebooking flight candidate with the motivation reaccommodating the passenger.

As per claim 2, Slivka et al discloses that criteria comprises frequent flyer status in Claim 3 (of Slivka).

Slivka et al does not specifically disclose the following, but does disclose that a passenger with a higher value is presented with more flight options since there is an advantage of being rebooked for a flight with a flight time closer to the delayed flight, and the passenger with lower passenger value gets booked on a remaining flight that is not as close to the original delayed flight time. In this case, the passenger with the higher value has a greater number of flights to choose from since he is first presented with the closer flight, but then has the option to decline and choose an alternative flight,

where the passenger with the lower value only has an option of being booked on the flight that is the next available, thereby making the following obvious:

wherein said presenting step comprises decreasing a number of said rebooking flight candidates presented to said passenger failing to meet criteria for high passenger value...

As per claim 3, Slivka et al discloses:

wherein said passenger data of said passenger is compared to passenger data of at least one other passenger in need of rebooking, and said passenger is offered rebooking flight candidates based upon said comparing step/further comprising means for comparing said flight operations data for said rebooking flight candidates/compares passenger data with flight operations data for said rebooking flight candidates, ([0015], and [0050], compared to other passengers/customers).

As per claim 4, Slivka et al discloses:

wherein said passenger data is provided substantially real time, ([0048], real time).

As per claims 5, 7, Slivka et al discloses:

wherein said presenting step comprises presenting high remaining unflown value flight rebooking candidates and not presenting rebooking flight candidates with lower unflown values/wherein said passenger data comprises the remaining unflown ticket value for said passenger ([0052], shows a re-accommodation process where based on passenger value, higher value is booked).

As per claim 6, Slivka et al discloses:

wherein said presenting step comprises offering said passenger incentives for selecting rebooking flight candidates with high remaining unflown value, ([0004], lines 22-26, shows example of rewards).

As per claim 8, Slivka et al discloses:

wherein said passenger data comprises passenger loyalty data, (Claim 3, frequent flyer status).

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akiba K Robinson-Boyce whose telephone number is 571-272-6734. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the •Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status



information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

A. R. B.  
November 9, 2008

/Akiba K Robinson-Boyce/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3628